

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHRISTIAN LEADER'S WIFE

INTRODUCTION:

A. PROVERBS 31:10-31

This passage is your background reading.

These virtues may be summed up as follows:

1. Chaste and modest
 2. Diligent and frugal
 3. Dutiful to her husband
 4. Careful of her family
 5. Discreet in her conversation and in the education of her children
 6. Helpful to the poor and needy
 7. Conscientious in her duty to God
- B. Proverbs pictures the perfect woman. This is NOT who we are; no woman can live up to all these standards shown here.
- C. But it is not what you are, it is what you are becoming—what you really want to **be** by God's grace. To grow close to this example you need to focus at one item at a time. Ask God to show you in your heart what HE wants to beautify. Then with little steps; tiny increments you will experience joy as you grow and develop. In time you will become the model lady in your church.
- D. Your husband is not all that he can be, must be, or will be. You can make or break your husband; build or destroy him. Your success is bound in the success of your husband. Any victories he enjoys are your victories.
- E. Let's discuss some ideas on how you can be a successful Christian leader's wife—the helpmeet God intended you to be

I. YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

A. SALVATION — YOUR OWN

Success as a wife begins with your success as an individual before God. If you want to succeed in any area of your life you must first succeed in your heart. If there is to be peace in your life and life ministry there must first be peace in your heart. You must be sure that you know Jesus personally and have your own life stable in the Lord.

B. SCRIPTURE — Searching God's Word

1. *Systematic study goals—daily food*

a. I Peter 2:2 — Milk

- "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation."
- This covers these easy and lighter devotional Bible readings and preparations for children, etc. Abstain from sinful desires vs. 11 and live lives full of good deeds. Vs.12.

b. Hebrews 5:12-14 — Meat

- *"In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone, who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."*

- This covers all areas of righteous living. You need to be well trained in distinguishing good from evil. That is the mark of maturity.

2. Soothing meditation and renewing of your spirit

a. Jeremiah 15:16

- *“When your words came, I ate them: they were my joy and my heart’s delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty.”*
- What Joy! I know it is true of me, is this true of you?
- Does God's Word thrill you?

b. Psalm 19:9-11

- *“The fear of God is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, much more than pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is a great reward.”*
- There is fantastic value in the Word of God and great reward for putting it into practice. Wow!

c. Psalm 119:35, 47, 48

- *“Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. For I delight in your commands because I love them. I lift up my hands to your commands, which I love, and meditate on your decrees.”*
- This was David's attitude, the man after God's heart.
- If you want to be a woman after God's heart you should also have such a delight in knowing the Bible and **practicing** the Bible

d. Psalm 119:165 *“Great peace have they which love your law and nothing can make them stumble.”*

- Two things God promises here to you: Great peace and the possibility not to stumble. Wonderful isn't it?

e. Philippians 4:8

- *“Finally, brothers (or sisters) , whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right whatever is pure, whatever is lively, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praise worthy— think about such things.”*
- (1) Your thoughts decide how you will react and what you will do.
- (2) Your heart and speech and body will follow where your mind goes!

C. SEEKING GOD'S FACE (PRAYER)

1. For your own needs

a. Psalm 105: 3, 4

- *“Glory in his holy name; let the heart of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.”*
- Always seek the Lord, dwell on His strength, Glory in it.

b. Matthew 7: 7,8

- *“For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds ; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”*
- Ask, seek and find; what a simple formula.

Knock and an opportunity will present itself.

A guarantee is given — Why, oh why don't we make more use of it?

c. Hebrews 4: 16

- *“Let us than approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*



- That special rest is still available. The song describes it so well.

'Safe in the arms of Jesus, safe on His gently breast.'

Some did not find that rest — because of unbelief.

Will you find it?

Things that suffocate SUFFOCATION OF:		Things that provide satisfaction SATISFACTION OF:	
Sin	your own pleasurable indulgences	Security (in husband and Lord)	One of our missionaries' wives states, "It is such a great joy to serve such a loveable husband"
Stagnation	stuck in the hum drum of family life	Serenity (contentment, peace)	"peace I leave with you"
Shallowness Self-pity	looking around you instead of up to the holy examples of Christian heroines	Sensitivity	to the Lord, husband, children and your own spiritual nudgings
Self-accusing	berating your shortcomings rather than focusing on the Lord's glorious provision	Self-denial	Jesus, others, yourself is the recipe for true fulfillment
Self-complacency	accepting the spiritual plateau you are on as status quo, dropping that desire to continue growing	Self-examination	in the mirror of God's Holy Word
Self-reliance	out from under the protection of the Lord and your husband's umbrella	Spotlessness	you can tell the Lord all your problems, and He will never betray your confidence
Self-will	not waiting for the Lord's will, not giving your husband an opportunity to care for you		
Self-indulgence	gratifying your physical desires		
Self-defense	excusing yourself and defending each of these items in this list		
Self-centeredness	looking after yourself because if you don't no one else will		

2. For Your Husband

a. James 5:16

- *"Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."*
- Confessing your sins and shortcomings to each other. What a wonderful relationship to tenderly wash each other through your prayers. Your husband healed of whatever malady, nervousness, frustration, helplessness or other illness through your prayers. Imagine your prayer to be powerful and effective!

b. I Samuel 12:23

- *"As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right."*

- Do not sin the sin of prayerlessness. And share your prayer results.
- c. Romans 1:9
 - *"God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of His Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you in my prayers at all times."*
 - The greatest people of God lived in prayer constantly; it was their very breath. Paul, Daniel, Moses, David and many others.
- d. You can pray for your husband with more understanding than can all others put together.
 - (1) Always begin by thanking God for giving you such a wonderful husband.
 - (2) Pray faithfully for God to give him wisdom and guidance.
 - (3) Pray that God will increase his strengths and minimize his weaknesses.
 - (4) Pray for his specific needs.

3. For Others

- a. Philippians 1:4 *"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy."*
 - Praying with joy.
- b. Ephesians 6:18
 - *"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kind of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."*
 - On all kinds of occasions in the power of the Holy Spirit pray all kinds of prayers always. That is strong language!
- c. Matthew 5:44
 - *"But I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."*
 - Pray in love for your enemies.

4. For Everything

- a. Philippians 4:6, 7 *"Be careful for nothing: but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*
- b. Proverbs 16:3
 - *"Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed"*.
 - Another promise that all your holy and pure ideas will come about.
- c. I Thessalonians 5:17, 18
 - *"Pray continually; Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*
 - Want to know God's will? Give thanks in all circumstances continually!

Can it get any simpler?

D. SOULWINNING

1. Psalm 119:47 *"I will speak of your statutes ...and I will not be put to shame, for I delight in your commands because I love them."*
2. Isaiah 43:10 *"You are my witnesses...and my servant whom I have chosen."*
3. Luke 24:48 *"You are witnesses of these things..."*
4. Acts 1:8 *"You will receive power...and you will be my witnesses ..."*
5. Proverbs 11:30 *"...he who wins souls is wise."*

II. YOUR SUBMISSIVE LIFE

Hebrews 13:17 "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch over your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

SUBMISSIVE — means — An **inward attitude** (meek) that yields to the power, control, and authority of another; obedient (the action of submissiveness).

A. The Husband's Headship

1. **Proverbs 18:22**

"He that finds a wife finds a good thing." God expressed a tremendous truth when He said, "It is not good that the man should be alone." (Genesis 2:18) God fashioned the lovely Miss Eve. Introducing her to wondering Adam, God affirmed that she was to be a "help" to him, aiding, comforting, encouraging and strengthening him. Eve was to be "meet," or suitable for Adam's needs.

2. **Ephesians 5:23-25**

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." (As the head of the house the husband has greater responsibilities.)

B. The Wife's Subordination

1. **The plain teachings of Scripture:**

(A wife's success is dependent upon her husband's success in his relationship with Christ. Some women rebel against the idea of obeying their husbands, or submitting to them, yet many passages of Scripture suggest that this is a must and acceptable to God.)

- a. I Peter 3:5 "For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands."
- b. Colossians 3:18 "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord."
- c. Titus 2:4, 5 "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God be not blasphemed."
- d. I Peter 3:1 "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands."

2. **The Joyful Acceptance of God's Roles**

With a husband who keeps his relationship right with God, any woman would be most foolish not to heed the commandments to love, honor, and obey her husband. In so doing she becomes the recipient of a love so great that it is worthy of comparison with Christ's love for His church, Happiness, harmony and fulfillment are to be found in being a "help" to one's husband. You are to glory in this God-given position and joyfully accept this role!!

There is a tremendous power and bond when two people set themselves in agreement with the Word of God!

3. **The Delicate Fulfilment of her Role**

Look for those little areas that you can be submissive in. As you learn submission in small things it will make it easier when larger issues come up, because you have been practicing in **attitude and action**. But, remember you need to express your opinion in meekness and love when your husband asks you to do something that you know in your heart is wrong. And if you have already practiced submission in small areas and you have the "attitude" of submission, he will be more willing to listen to your counsel. You are a participant with your husband, not just a passive by-stander.

III. YOUR SUPPORTIVE LIFE

Be supportive of your husband and his ministry. Help him take the place of leadership by being his best booster, his supporter, his prayer warrior.

James 1:22 *"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves".*

I Samuel 12:24 *"But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you."*

Proverbs 14:1 *"Every wise woman builds her house: but the foolish plucks it down with her hands."*

A. You can have the joy and SATISFACTION of being:

1. **A Strengthener**

Husbands have doubts, fears, uncertainties. If you walk close to God, have his heartbeat and vision for the ministry you can be an invaluable strengthener.

2. **A Shock Absorber**

In the world your husband experiences many shocking and devastating experiences. Let him unload at home and receive your soothing wisdom. My dear wife Diane has served perfectly in this role.

3. **A Shopper**

Be a supplier of all his needs, personal, family and business.

4. **A Squelcher**

Squelch wrong feelings, interests and attitudes. Be sensitive and keep that husband of yours pure in all things.

5. **Slender**

Stay in shape — the Bible has much to say about gluttony. Be presentable as an exemplary wife of a spiritual leader.

6. **Spirited**

Be on fire for God, for him, for the family, about yourself. Always have exciting ideas for the ministry or a game or a day off. Don't become a slouch.

7. **A Sharer**

Share in his burdens, his vision, his grief and disappointments.

Share your life with him — there should be no secrets you keep from him

Seek appropriate times, but be open, don't hide anything; hiding is sin.

8. **A Stabilizer**

Both in short term joy or pain provide a long-term perspective that provides a balance. **"Balance"** while not mentioned in scripture is a key word for the Christian's lifestyle.

9. **A Sympathizer**

The world is harsh, spiritual work is a doing battle against evil spiritual powers. When your husband comes home he needs understanding and sympathy on a deep level.

10. **A Specialist**

- a. Know what your husband needs and wants
- b. Show interest in his ministry
- c. Keep yourself updated on various responsibilities your husband has
 - (1) Take the part in some of the New Life for Churches. Training
 - (2) Read the lectures
 - (3) Listen to the New Life for Churches lecture videos or audios
 - (4) Accompany your husband to conventions and seminars when possible

Proverbs 14:1 *"Every wise woman builds her house: but the foolish plucks it down with her hands."*

B. God can help you eliminate your being:

1. Self-sighted

- The center of life is Christ, you will have more joy and beauty focusing on that life than by allowing yourself to shrink into being a slave to your own self-styled queen image

2. Sloppy, Slipshod or Shabby

- may be this is you but it isn't Christian, Christ came to redeem you from this also and to put you on a pedestal of satisfied neatness

3. Smudging or Slamming

- God created you to be his helper, your job is to clean him not make him dirty

4. Sickly

- Study home vitamin & medicine guides. Improve on making healthy meals

5. Side-tracked

- This is the whole purpose of satan's distractions but you are a daughter of God

6. Suspicious

- God's great gift is freedom from sin, from anything that brings you bondage

7. Spiritless

- Don't be just a "yes" 'sayer, don't be lukewarm, don't have an "it's ok with me I don't care" attitude. Study, do research, know your stuff, be hot for Jesus and be ready to share opinions and to make vital contributions to every area of your lives.

8. Strangling

- instead allow yourself to expand limitlessly, becoming like the angels

9. Short (impatient)

- God's example is long-suffering, not willing that any should perish
- Whenever you are short something perishes. Your patience gives hope

IV.YOUR SUPERLATIVE LIFE

You want to be a shining example in the quality of your life. "...an example of the believer..." I Timothy 4:12.

A. A Shining Example before those who are observing your life

1. Your husband
2. Your children
3. Other wives of team members
4. Other women
5. Young people

Yes Proverbs 31 is a reality and it does not even tell half of what is laid in store for the daughters of God it is there waiting to be claimed Will you be that precious one?

B. You can be a Shining example in many ways

1. A shining example of Compassionate

Love for all people
Kindness and concern
Leading others to a salvation experience



2. A shining example of Silent

Husbands need quiet time and lots of it. They are often thinkers and enjoy undisturbed time.

3. A shining example of Soft-spoken

Look up Bible references about a brass woman and discover what God thinks about it and how your husband feels about it. Then become soft spoken. It is very rare that 'my Diane' will speak a harsh word.

4. A shining example of "Sunny"

(having a sunny disposition) If you lack that quality, try to collect jokes, make notes of funny happenings, save interesting readings and share when hubby arrives home.

5. A shining example of Sociable

Learn the art of conversing, read interesting books so you have things to share.

6. A shining example of Sharp

Stay up to date with his ministry, study a New Life for Churches course, a secular course such as computer basics, or English. Be with it, sharp and educated.

7. A shining example of a Sympathizer

Husbands have bodies, emotions, feelings; they are mental and spiritual beings and from time to time they need sympathy in each of these areas.

8. A shining example of A Sweetheart

Keep your heart sweet. Always! He still desires that first love even after he is retired. Make sure it is there. Make sure you still have it.

C. Make your home a place he enjoys coming home to by:

1. Being neat, tidy, orderly, clean
2. Being loving and affectionate
3. Being kind and understanding
4. Being forgiving and sympathetic
5. Being enthusiastic and joyful
6. Being attractive and charming

CONCLUSION

#1 A spiritual life, #2 a submissive life, #3 a supportive life, #4 **a superlative life**. We the believers are the holy ones of God. **You a saint**. It is all summed up into these 4 life styles. What beauty, what glory awaits the Christian leader's wife. You begin as woman, young and single, then you become wife, then mother and then grandmother. Each stage well lived increases godliness until there is practically no room to contain it.

For the next several years select monthly one item in each of these 4 categories that you would like to polish and become a shining example off. Then bring it before the Lord. He will help you become more and more holy, clean, radiant, no smudge but holy and blameless. It is true and it is possible, else the Bible would not teach it. This can become your very own holy ambition. God called your husband to leadership, with that He called you to be a model wife. He says: "...*You are precious and honored in my sight, and ... I love you.*" Isaiah 43: 4

Blessings to you, our dear friends!

We are happy to present the video, audio and paper materials that have been prepared by New Life for Churches. You have the privilege *upon completion of your practical assignment* to use this lecture with others.

Practical assignment

Completed

- Reread the lecture.
- Choose one item from under each heading that you feel needs the most work in your life.
- Focus on developing a different one of these areas each week for the next month. Each week write down what item you have chosen and how you are practicing it in your life.