

Feminine, Femme Fatale, FEMINIST . . .

WHO IS THE REAL WOMAN?

TOOLBOX

- THINK
- OBSERVE
- CLOSE-UP
- WRITE
- DISCUSS
- FEELINGS
- BRAINSTORM
- REFERENCE
- PASSAGE
- ARTICLE
- BIG IDEA
- CROSSROAD

"I think that the goals of women's societies should be to self-destruct. The most talented women should not be in women's groups but in men's groups. That's where the power is."
Rosalyn Yalow

FEMININE: like a woman, tender, gentle
FEMME FATALE: irresistibly attractive woman who leads men into danger
FEMINIST: advocating social and political rights for women equal to those of men

"Womanhood must be reinvented. Woman has too long been content to accept as fundamental the dependent condition of her sex. We avoid aggressive behavior, fear autonomy, feel incomplete without the social status only a man can bestow."
Carolyn G. Heilbrun

"Rage + Women = Power"
Ms. Magazine Cover

"I became totally convinced of one thing: women needed something beyond equal rights, something else, something deeper."
Dee Jepsen

"We are, as a sex, infinitely superior to men."
Elizabeth Cady Stanton

"The Bible and the Church have been the greatest stumbling blocks in the way of woman's emancipation."
Elizabeth Cady Stanton

"When we see ourselves as victims of nature rather than blessed participants, as victims of men rather than partners in life's complex tale, we harm only ourselves. Convinced of our own inferiority, we strive neither for virtue nor for life, neither for great deeds for caring for families, but only for that empty substance, 'empowerment.' Only those who believe they truly have no power speak of being 'empowered.'"
Kari Jenson Gold

"I like 'em best barefoot, pregnant and cookin' my dinner."
Author unknown, probably shot to death

"I have a brain and a uterus and I use them both."
Patricia Schroeder



Tyrannical Rex: Misinterpreting what submission means.



MOST ADMIRABLE WOMEN

	Admirable Qualities
• Hillary Rodham-Clinton	
• Barbara Bush	
• Mother Teresa	
• Oprah Winfrey	
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SUCCESS STORIES

- Dr. Mae Jemison – M.D., Chemical Engineer, 1st African American woman in space
- Robin Burn – President and CEO of *Estee Lauder U.S.A.*
- Elizabeth Dole – President of the *American Red Cross*
- Sandra Day O'Connor – 1st woman on U.S. Supreme Court
- Jill Williams – wife of General Manager of the Orlando Magic, mother of adopted Brazilian children
- Maya Angelou – writer, poet
- Susan Baker – humanitarian, mother of 8
- Geraldine Laybourne – President of *Nickelodeon*
- Georgie Eddins – mother of 2, 15-year missionary behind the Iron Curtain
- Sally Frame Kasaks – Chairman and CEO of *Ann Taylor*
- Nancy Kassebaum – U.S. Senator



TWO VIEWS

CULTURE'S VIEW

GOD'S VIEW



PROVERBS

The book of Proverbs is a collection of practical wisdom and instruction for daily living. It was written almost 3,000 years ago.

CONTEXT

Proverbs 31:10-31 is a Hebrew poem exalting the honor and dignity of womanhood. It's a picture of a "composite" woman—not a standard that any one woman should measure herself by.

PROVERBS 31:10-31

- 10 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.
- 11 Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.
- 12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.
- 13 She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.
- 14 She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.
- 15 She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls.
- 16 She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.
- 17 She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.
- 18 She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.
- 19 In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.
- 20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.
- 21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.
- 22 She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.
- 23 Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.
- 24 She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes.
- 25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.
- 26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
- 27 She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.
- 28 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:
- 29 "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."
- 30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
- 31 Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

CHARACTER

who she is



CAPABILITIES

what she does

God desires that women mature in two areas of life: character and capabilities. He also indicates that there is an essential trait needed to accomplish that—fear of the Lord.

FEAR OF THE LORD

Awe, reverence; it induces love rather than terror

WHY?

Proverbs 1:7
Proverbs 9:10
Proverbs 10:27
Proverbs 14:26
Proverbs 15:16
Proverbs 19:23

“ To me, success is doing what God wants you to do and doing it with a commitment to excellence. I feel that I’m doing what God wants me to be doing. I must do it well. If I do it well, then the effects of it will be multiplied and the rewards will come. ”
Mary Crowley

GOD’S MOST ADMIRABLE WOMEN

Esther – Queen; saved her nation (Esther)
Huldah – Prophetess; counselor to King Josiah (2 Chronicles 34:22-28)
Mary – mother of Jesus (Luke 1:1,2)
Lydia – businesswoman (Acts 16:14,15)
Abigail – David’s wife; counselor to King David (1 Samuel 25)
Phoebe – church leader (Romans 16:1,2)
Priscilla – businesswoman; teacher of the scriptures (Acts 18)
Deborah – judge (Judges 4,5)
Joanna & Suzanna – financial contributors to Jesus and disciples (Luke 8:1-3)
Dorcas – humanitarian (Acts 9:36)
Anna – woman of prayer (Luke 2:36-38)
Martha & Mary – students of Jesus; homemakers (Luke 10)
Ruth – faithful daughter-in-law; widow (Ruth)



LYNNE’S OBJECTION

Lynne said, “I’ll never consider becoming a Christian because of the view of women in the Bible.”
As a result of your study in Proverbs 31, how would you respond to Lynne’s comment?

“ There is enormous overlap between the sexes. Intelligence, talent, courage, ambition, nurturance, emotional vulnerability—all are human qualities that we share. If each sex brings to these qualities a different style and special flavor, it can only make both of them richer. ”

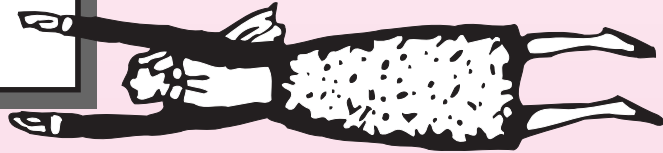
Annie Gottlieb

WOMEN OF CAPABILITY AND CHARACTER

In 1965, while working on a master's degree in biochemistry, Sallie heard how she could know God personally. Since that time, she has devoted herself to knowing Christ and making Him known. She presently leads Senate and Congressional wives in a weekly Bible study where she combines her ability to encourage and influence people with her skills in teaching. She will soon complete a master's degree in theology at the age of 54. Her goal: to "out think and out love" the world around her.

Tricia married Jesse when she was 30 years old. Early in their marriage they agreed that they would never speak in a dishonoring manner about each other in front of other people. People love to visit their home. Tricia is committed to making her home a place of rest and spiritual refreshment for her husband and their children, as well as those outside the family. She's the kind of woman that people love to be around – and she makes an incredible triple chocolate cheesecake!

TODAY'S PROVERBS 31 WOMEN



YOUR LIFE IN 30 YEARS



Capabilities:

Character:

YOUR LIFE NOW



Capabilities:

Character:

For further study on character development: Psalm 1; Jeremiah 9:23,24;
Philippians 3:7-11; Ezra 7:10; Hosea 6:3; Colossians 3:1-3

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