

### Developing Marriage Oneness Part III

Proverbs 31:10-31—“An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. <sup>11</sup> The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. <sup>12</sup> She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. <sup>13</sup> She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. <sup>14</sup> She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar. <sup>15</sup> She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens. <sup>16</sup> She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. <sup>17</sup> She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong. <sup>18</sup> She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. <sup>19</sup> She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. <sup>20</sup> She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy. <sup>21</sup> She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet. <sup>22</sup> She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple. <sup>23</sup> Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land. <sup>24</sup> She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant. <sup>25</sup> Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. <sup>26</sup> She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. <sup>27</sup> She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. <sup>28</sup> Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: <sup>29</sup> ‘Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.’ <sup>30</sup> Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. <sup>31</sup> Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.”

Proverbs 12:4—“An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings shame is like rottenness in his bones.”

#### **The Excellent Wife (Proverbs 31:10-31)**

1. An excellent wife is extremely **valuable** to her husband (v.10).
2. The heart of her husband **trusts** in her (v.11).
3. She will **benefit** her husband (v.12).
4. She is **industrious** (v.13-14).
5. She is **resourceful** in meeting the needs of her family (v.13-16).
6. She is a **diligent** worker in the home (v.17).
7. She **helps** those who are in need outside of the home (v.20).
8. Her husband has a **good name** with others (v.23).
9. She is a woman known for **good character** (v.25).
10. She is a **blessing to her children** (v.28).
11. Her **husband values her** above all other women (v.28-29).
12. She **reveres God** (v.30).

## **BATTLE FOR A WOMAN'S HEART IN RESPONDING IN SUBMISSION TO HER HUSBAND**

### **Why Women Have Difficulty**

1. Emotional vulnerability as the weaker vessel.
2. Temptation to usurp authority over their husbands (Genesis 3:16).
3. Vulnerability that comes with placing herself under a man without vision for their children, home and spiritual leadership (frustration, anger, worry, control, gossip).
4. Greater spiritual attack when not protected by her husband.

### **Wrong Responses for Wives in Scripture**

Proverbs 14:1—*“The wisest of women builds her house, but folly with her own hands tears it down.”*

1. **Nagging your husband to change.** Proverbs 19:13 *“A foolish son is ruin to his father, and a wife’s quarreling is a continual dripping of rain.”*
2. **Being her husband’s teacher.** 1 Peter 3:1,2—*“Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct.”*
3. **Being indiscreet.** Proverbs 12:4—*“An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings shame is like rotteness in his bones.”*
4. **Becoming fearful angry woman.** Proverbs 21:19—*“An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings shame is like rotteness in his bones.”*
5. **Being argumentative.** Proverbs 21:9—*“It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.”*
6. **Withholding physical intimacy.** 1 Corinthians 7:3-5—*“The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.”*

### **How Wives Can Communicate Respect**

1. Use words and tone of voice that communicate the spirit of submission. Avoid talking to him as if you are an authority.
2. Do not speak in a demeaning way of your husband to others.
3. Be willing to sacrifice for your husband (serve him).
4. Understand his battles (financial pressure, sexual needs, etc.).
5. Be a woman of prayer for your husband.
6. Instill respect for Dad in the lives of your children.
7. Suggest creative solutions that will meet your husband’s goals and desires.
8. Look for ways to relieve stress in his life.
9. Get your husband’s counsel before making decisions or commitments.