

**Scripture:** Proverbs 31

LD 39 #9

**Singing:** 403:1-3 – 428:1-2 – 360:2, 4 – 19:1-5

Intro: Solomon's picture of the *price-less woman* (Proverbs 31:10-31)

- A. What is the secret of becoming such a woman?
  
- B. As Christian we are to follow closely footsteps of the Lord Jesus Christ
  - 1. He fought the oppression of women by example
  
  - 2. He opposed our culture's radical feminism with affirming Genesis 2

**HONOR MY AUTHORITY (6)**

I. As you exercise it II. As you respond to it *as wives* (1)

**I. God's two-fold assigned position of the wife**

A. God has given the wife **the place of honor**: Titus 2:3-5; 1 Tim. 2:11-15

- 1. To be a wife is one of highest callings
  - a. because you have the responsibility over one of most important places

b. because you influence the prosperity and strength of church and state

B. God has given the wife **the place of ministry**: Eph. 5:22-24; 32-33

- 1. God called you to be a 'helper meet for him' (Genesis 2:18)
  - a. this word describes God: Ps. 10:14; 54:4; 72:12; 86:17; 121:1-2

b. in Paradise Eve lived in perfect happiness while submissive

c. cure of misery or pain experienced in marriage is respect to 5<sup>th</sup>

2. God called you to be *submissive to Him: as unto the Lord*

- a. the husband has *ambassadorial authority* like Jesus (Matt. 28:18)

*Calvin on Ephesians 5: The authority of Jesus and husband is not equal. But the point is that wives cannot obey Christ without yielding submitting to husbands (vs. 33)*

## II. God's assigned responsibility for the wife

A. Paul's focus in teaching on the wife in marriage is on *her responsibilities*

1. Our culture & fallen human natures hammers on our rights
  
2. Scripture does not direct us to insist on rights
  - a. our calling is study our responsibilities we have before Him
  
  - b. our calling is *also* to study our spouse's responsibilities: why?

B. God's call for the wife: *submit to their own husbands in everything* (24)

1. "Everything" means in *every area of their married life*
  
2. For many wives this doesn't *sound* fearful, but *is* fearful
  - a. definition of domestic abuser: *a husband whose by deliberate, ongoing, systematic, relentless actions destroys his wife, to wither her soul and body, to gain total control over her.* (Engelsma)
  
  - b. typical tools to as husband uses to control spouse
  
3. If you are like Eccl. 4:1, then hear God's direction in Proverbs 31:8-9  
Eccl. 4:1 *So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter: and on the side of their oppressors was power, but they had not comforter.*

Prov. 31:8-9: *Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction. Open thy mouth, judge righteousness, and plead the cause of the poor and need.*

The LORD executeth judgment for the oppressed.

The LORD looseth the prisoners.

The LORD raiseth them that are bowed down.

The LORD turneth the way of the wicked upside down.