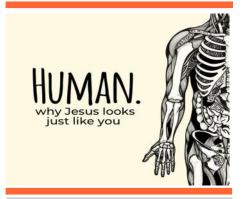


I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES.

JOHN 15:5

Grace Baptist Church • 605 E. McCoy • Santa Maria, CA • 805-925-2671 • www.gracesantamaria.org • May 2, 2025

We exist to ignite
a passion in every
person to glorify and
enjoy God everywhere
and in everything.



SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE 9:00am & 10:30am

"The Most Perverted and Grotesque Thing That Can Ever Happen To You" Genesis 2:7

https://youtube.com/live/xBenMJY9y4

Pastor Benji



An ABC Book about Godly Wives

(not a guilt trip for stay-at-home moms)

We're in between the Grace Women's Retreat and Mother's Day and Proverbs 31 just landed in my reading plan for the day. Here are some guilt-free reflections.

There are a number of acrostic poems in the Old Testament (turns out there are 14, read this article if you want more about them https://tyndalehouse.com/explore/articles/hebrew-acrostics/). Besides displaying ancient linguistic artistry, I think they serve as ABC books for some significant thoughts in Old Testament (and all) life. Psalm 119 teaches us to love God's word through octets that teach us the Hebrew alphabet. Lamentations is actually 5 alphabet acrostics that teach lament and hope in God rather than despair.

I think Proverbs 31, far from being the often guilt producing passage for women of faith, was the children's book for celebrating an amalgamation of the many godly women in their lives, a community not a superheroine. Something like: *A (Aleph)* Abuela (grandma in Spanish) that cares for all her clan. *B (Beth)* A godly woman's beauty blossoms each day as the Fruit of the Spirit increases in her. *C (Gimel)* Sharing grace with those she encounters as she goes about her business.

Think of that as you buy your mom a card this week and as you read Proverbs 31

Aleph An excellent wife who can find?

She is far more precious than jewels.

Beth The heart of her husband trusts in her,

and he will have no lack of gain.

Gimel She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.

Daleth She seeks wool and flax,

and works with willing hands.

He She is like the ships of the merchant;

she brings her food from afar.

Waw/Vav She rises while it is yet night

and provides food for her household

and portions for her maidens.

Zayin She considers a field and buys it;

with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

Heth She dresses herself with strength

and makes her arms strong.

Continued on back...

SUNDAYS * AT GRACE

9:00

Gary Barron - Room 503

10-30

Kurt Mason- Room 108 Kevin Baldizon- Grace Hall

Sermon Discussion Carl Hathaway - Room 706

Come join a Sunday School class and experience Gospel community!

ATTENTION 6TH GRADERS

Current 6th graders moving up to Jr. High in the fall of 2025 will join the Youth Ministries, as soon as AWANA finishes, on Sunday **May 11th** and Tuesday **May 13th**.

All other grades will move up in August.

Teth She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.

Her lamp does not go out at night.

Yodh She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.

Kaph She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.

Lamedh She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet.

Mem She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.

Nun Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land.

Samekh She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant.

Ayin Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.

Pe She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

Tsadhe She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Qoph Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: Resh "Many women have done excellently,

but you surpass them all."

sin & Shin Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Taw Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

- Pastor James





