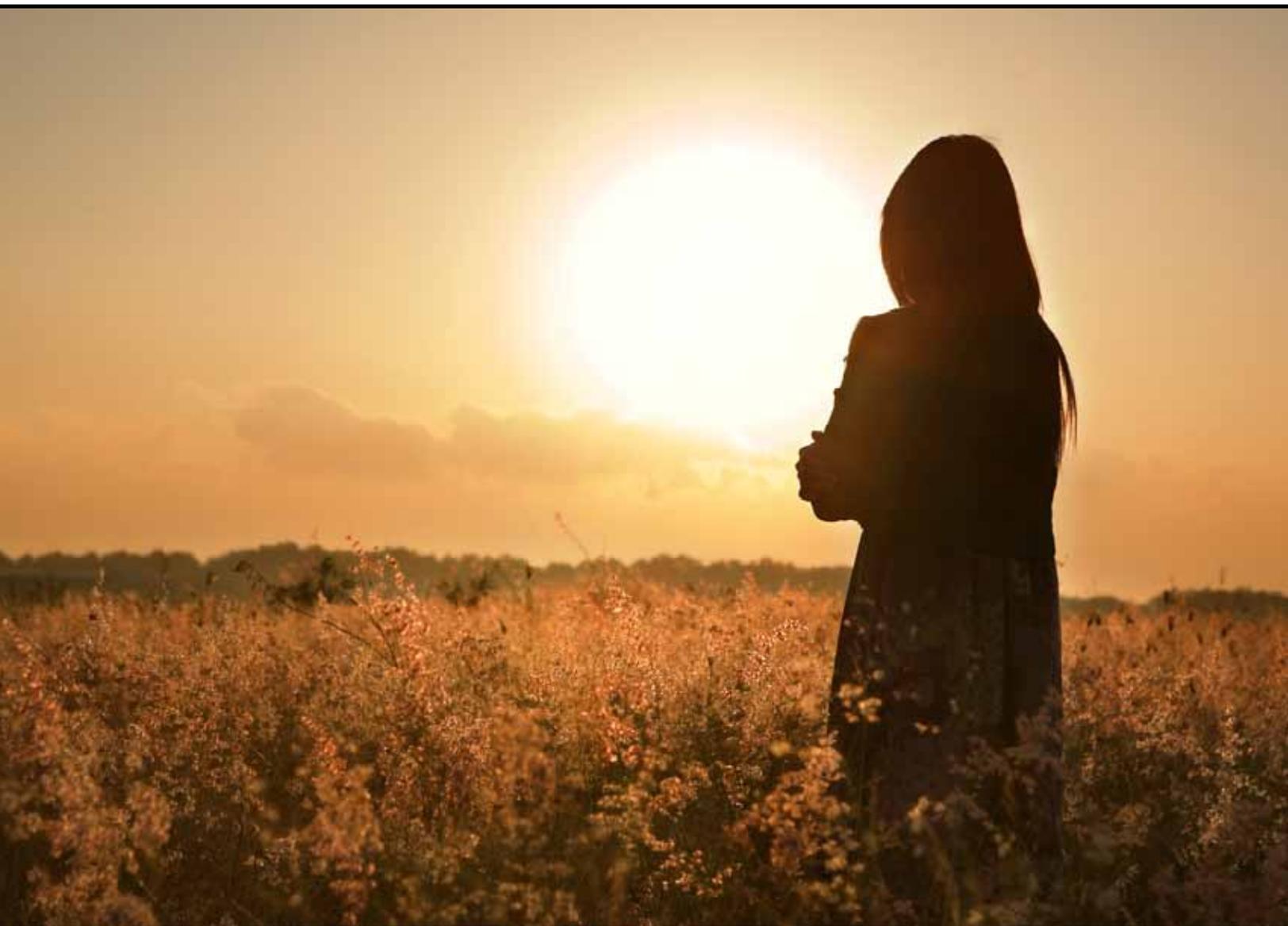


A WOMAN OF GOD

SARNIA CONFERENCE *2010* Sarnia Gospel Hall
May 28-30, 2010



A Woman of God
Table of Contents

Schedule of Meetings..... 1

The Significance of Womanhood 2

Living for God as a Single Woman 4

Submission of a Godly Woman 6

Symbolism Displayed by Godly Women 8-9

Questions for Panel Discussion 12-16

Spiritual Development in a Godly Woman 18

Secular Work and Christian Women..... 20

Seeking a Woman from God – Scriptural Advice for Single Christian Men..... 22

MAP

Start: Sarnia Gospel Hall, 1791 London Line

Finish: Dow People Place, Centennial Park



Directions: From Sarnia Gospel Hall to Dow People Place, Centennial Park

- Turn left out of Gospel Hall parking lot and proceed West on London Line.
- Turn north on Modeland Road and follow signs for Hwy 402 West
- Take 402 West to Front Street exit
- Go south on Front Street
- Centennial Park is on your right, after you pass Exmouth Street
- Follow signs for Dow People Place

A Woman of God Schedule of Meetings

Friday May 28, 2010

7:30 – 8:00 pm Prayer session
8:00 – 8:45 pm *The Significance of Womanhood – Dr. A.J. Higgins*

Saturday May 29, 2010

10:00 – 10:30 am Prayer session
10:30 – 11:15 am *Living for God as a Single Woman – Dr. Lindsay Parks*
11:15 am – noon *The Submission of a Godly Woman – Mr. Gaius Goff*

noon – 1:15 pm Lunch

1:15 – 1:30 pm Prayer session
1:30 – 2:15 pm *Symbolism Displayed by Godly Women – Mr. David Alves*
2:15 – 3:00 pm *Scriptural Service of Godly Women – Dr. A.J. Higgins*

3:00 – 3:30 pm Break

3:30 – 5:00 pm Panel Discussion/Question & Answer Session (chaired by Andrew Ussher)

5:00 – 6:30 pm Supper

6:30 – 7:30 pm Gospel Meeting (at Dow People Place, *see map on page, at left*)

7:45 pm Sing

Sunday May 30, 2010

10:00 – noon Breaking of Bread

Noon – 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm Sunday School

1:45 – 2:30 pm Break

2:30 – 3:15 pm *Spiritual Development in a Godly Woman – Mr. Gaius Goff*
3:15 – 4:00 pm *Secular Work and Christian Women – Dr. Lindsay Parks*
4:00 – 4:45 pm Seeking a Woman from God – Scriptural Advice for Single Christian Men
– *Mr. David Alves*

4:45 – 6:00 pm Supper

6:00 – 7:00 pm Gospel Meeting (at Dow People Place, *see map on page, at left*)

• The Significance of Womanhood •

Dr. A.J. Higgins

Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18-24; Gal 3:27-28; 1 Tim 2:1-15

1. Womanhood in Creation - Separate yet Equal - Creatorial Design

- Divine Purpose
 - o She is equally an image bearer of God
 - o To be the glory of the man
 - o To be secure in the man
 - o To reflect the beauty of the Church
- Unique Parts - there are God designed distinctions: Gen 1:26:-28; 2:15-24; 3:16
 - o What is Implied - There is a difference by design
 - o What is Innate
 - Man is goal and task oriented (Gen 2:15,19)
 - Female: She is relationship oriented (ch 2:18)
- Inherent Priorities - Security and significance
- Intended Profit
 - o To Balance one another
 - o To Bless one another
 - o To Build up one another

2. Womanhood in Christ - Sanctified and Elevated - Conferred Dignity

- Equal in Position - same blessings
- Equal in Privilege - all a holy priesthood; ability to worship, enjoy fellowship with God and to know Him
- Equal in Potential

3. Womanhood in the Church - Significant and Essential - Critical Distinction

- Symbol unique to her
- Sermon unique to her
- Service unique to her

• Living for God as a Single Woman •

Dr. Lindsay Parks

1. *The Commendable Status of singleness*

(1 Cor. 7:34-35)

- A single sister, who is not yet married
 - o She has a true care for the things of the Lord
 - o She has an exercise for personal holiness and purity
 - o She has the opportunity to “attend to the Lord without distraction”
 - “attend”- to give diligent service to
 - “without distraction”- not having domestic cares

2. *The Commendable Traits of singleness*

(1 Tim. 5:9-10)

- A widow; now single, and honored for her service to the Lord
 - o She had been faithful as a wife
 - o She was well-known for her kind deeds
 - o She had raised her children well
 - o She had opened her home for hospitality
 - o She had been a faithful servant to other believers
 - o Her life was characterized by traits which honored the Lord
- How many of these character traits had been learned in her single years?

3. *The Commendable Results of singleness*

(2 Tim. 1:5-6; 2:14-15)

- Timothy’s mother and grandmother singled out- here, no mention of his father
 - o Their mentoring had contributed to his unshakeable faith
 - o They had been the believers by example, that Timothy had become
 - o From his earliest childhood, they had faithfully taught him God’s Word.
 - o God had blessed their efforts with his salvation, and his character

4. *The Commendable Choices of singleness*

(Luke 1:27-29, 34)

- God’s choice of a young teenager, to be the mother of the Lord Jesus.
 - o Mary’s purity- Luke 1:27-28, 34
 - o Mary’s courage- Luke 1:29
 - o Mary’s resolve- Luke 1:38
 - o Mary’s trust in the Lord- Luke 1:46-56
 - o Mary’s knowledge of the Word of God- Luke 1:46-56

• Submission of a Godly Woman •

Mr. Gaius Goff

1. *Introduction – Godly living in a Godless society*

(1 Peter 3:1-7)

- Submission is voluntarily cooperating with anyone out of love and respect. For a Christian submission is to God first, then to the person we submit to
- Submission is an effective strategy in soul-winning
- One-sided submission requires tremendous strength

2. *Rules of Submission – Instruction for Christian households*

(Colossians 3:17- 4:1)

- Husbands and wives: love and submission (3:18-19)
- Parents and children: encouragement and obedience (3:20-21)
- Masters and servants: honesty and devotion (3:22-4:1)

3. *Reality of Submission – Practices for Christian households*

(Ephesians 5:21-6:9)

- How should a man love his wife
- How should a woman submit to her husband
- Necessary lines of authority and submission

4. *Test of Submission – Imitating Christ's humility*

(Philippians 2:1-11)

- The mind of Christ
- The sacrifice of Christ
- The sacrifice of submission and the joy it brings

5. *Lessons in Submission – The example of Sarah*

(Gen.11:29-31; 12:5-17; 16:1-8; 17:15-21; 18; 20:2-18; 21:1-12; 23:1-9; 24:36-37; 25:10-12; 49:31; Isa.51:2; Rom.4:19; 9:9; Heb.11:11; 1Pe.3:6)

- Followed her husband in faith
- Faith in difficult situations
- Pattern of faithfulness
- Features in a life of submission
- The strengths of submission

• Symbolism Displayed by Godly Women •

Mr. David Alves

1. *Universalizing the symbolism – its truth will be displayed in the cosmos.*

- a) Christ, the anticipated Head (Psalm 110)
- b) Christ, the appointed Head (Acts 2:34-36; Hebrews 1:8)
- c) Christ, the acknowledged Head
 - i) In the present (Ephesians 1:19-22; 5:23; Colossians 1:18)
 - ii) In the future (Ephesians 1:21; 1 Corinthians 15:27-28)

2. *Understanding the symbolism – its truth was detailed to the Corinthians.*

- a) The array of symbols in 1 Corinthians
 - i) The collection of symbols:
 - (1) Identification with Christ: Baptism (1 Corinthians 1:13-17)
 - (2) Recollection of Christ: the bread and the cup (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
 - (3) Subjection to Christ: covered heads of women and uncovered heads of men (1 Corinthians 11:2-16)
 - ii) The confusion about symbols (1 Corinthians 1 and 11, regarding leadership, worship and headship)
- b) The analysis of symbols in 1 Corinthians 11:2-16
 - i) The man: headship - his glory, authority, responsibility. (v. 3) [Not tyranny or superiority]
 - (1) His head: (vv. 3, 4, 7) - The glory of God
 - (a) Physically: Uncovered.
 - (b) Metaphorically: Represents Christ.
 - (2) His hair: short (v. 14)
 - ii) The woman: helpership – her glory, submission, recognition [Not inferiority. Subjection despite equality.]
 - “Let men be men, and women be women.”
 - (1) Her head: (vv. 3, 5-6)
 - (a) Physically: Covered with an artificial covering. [Verse 10: she is under, subject to, authority.]
 - (b) Metaphorically: Represents the glory of manhood, out of sight in the public sphere.
 - (2) Her hair: long (vv. 6, 15) - The glory of womanhood, contemplated in the private sphere.
 - (a) The shame: not shorn, not shaven
 - (b) The sublime: it is her glory. A natural covering. (Does not replace the artificial covering, v. 15.)

3. *Using the symbolism – its truth is being demonstrated by Christians.*

- a) An article that is contemporary (Not outdated, or obsolete. Not just a cultural trait of ancient Greece!)
- b) An association that is complimentary (Both the hair and the head-covering are part of the symbolism.)

• Scriptural Service of Godly Women •

Dr. A.J. Higgins

Romans 16:1-16; Titus 2:3-5; 1 Cor 14:34

1. Her Place in the Scroll

- Three books in the Bible named for or to women
- One chapter - highlights a woman – Proverbs 31:10-31

2. Women the Scriptures Extol

- The honor roll of Romans 16 - perhaps 8 or 9 women in the chapter whom Paul appreciates or commends
- Acts 16 and Lydia and her home in Philippi
- Acts 18 and the wise private counsel of Aquila and Prisca
- Phil 4 and those women who labored with Paul

3. Word of God and her Role

- Role in the Home: what she does in the home she does as “unto the Lord” and as such represents genuine service - by faith - to the Lord.
 - o Raising Children
 - o Hospitality
 - o Sacrifices for husband and the assembly
- Role in the Assembly
 - o Teaching the younger sisters - Titus 2 - what is the teaching here?
 - o Teaching Sunday School
 - o The influence of her character
 - o Prayer - women of prayer; 1 Tim 2; Hannah, Anna
 - o Sermon she preaches - 1 Cor 11
 - o Personal work
- Role in Society
 - o Personal Work - Anna spake of Him ...
 - o Good Deeds - Acts 9:36 Dorcas

A Woman of God

Questions for Panel Discussion

1. If women are not permitted to have public place, public speaking responsibilities and leadership positions, what is their measure of significance? How can a godly woman have a scriptural sense of meaning and purpose in her life? (A.J. Higgins)

2. In Galatians 3:28, Paul writes that in Christ “there is neither male nor female”. Doesn’t this mean that men and women are equal in every respect? Doesn’t it then contradict this truth to interpret 1 Cor 11:2-16 as distinguishing between men and women? (D. Alves)

3. Submission is God’s design, not man’s – and when God requires something from us, he always provides enablement for us to fulfil His will. Where does willingness to submit begin? What are some of the potential things in an individual’s life that may hinder them from submitting? (G. Goff)

A Woman of God

Questions for Panel Discussion

4. Singleness often seems to carry with it a certain stigma. What are some of the ways that a single believer can find significance and purpose in life? What are some of the ways that they may be uniquely suited to serve the Lord? (L. Parks)

5. The Scriptures talk about sisters dressing modestly (1 Tim 2:9, 1 Pet 3:3). What is modest clothing? Are pants necessarily immodest? What should overseers do in an assembly if a sister arrives, with a letter of commendation, wearing pants, or a woman's "business suit"? (A.J. Higgins)

6. The ESV uses "husbands" and "wives" in 1 Corinthians 11:2-16 instead of "men" and "women". Why does it do this? Is this possibly giving us a better understanding that the passage is referring to a marriage relationship and not a more general assembly setting? (D. Alves)

A Woman of God Questions for Panel Discussion

7. Is submission a conditional thing? Should a wife submit to her husband when he does not love her as Christ loved the Church? What should a woman do in a marriage where her husband simply doesn't seem to be able or willing to take the lead? What about cases where her husband wants her to do what she knows God does not allow? Should she still submit? (G. Goff)

8. Is there a difference between marrying "in Christ" and marrying "in the Lord"? Is there anything wrong with dating an unsaved person with a view to seeing them won for Christ? What about dating a Christian who is not in assembly fellowship with a view to showing them the truth of assembly gathering? (L. Parks)

9. What are some examples of suitable roles/responsibilities for an exercised sister in assembly life? Sunday School teacher? Managing the kitchen/dining hall at a conference? Sunday School Superintendent? Treasurer? What Scriptural principles provide guidance for these practical determinations? (A.J. Higgins)

A Woman of God

Questions for Panel Discussion

10. Isn't a woman's long hair her covering? Is it really necessary to have another covering? If so, why is this second covering only worn in assembly meetings? If it's necessary, shouldn't it be worn all the time? Isn't submission a universal truth, not confined just to assembly meetings? (D. Alves)

11. How is spiritual development a choice – and in what ways is it more important and beneficial than simply focusing on service (example of Mary & Martha)? What are some of the key contributors to spiritual development (listening, communing, obeying, etc.)? (G. Goff)

12. A young couple is starting out in married life – both working and trying to get a financial foothold in a challenging economic environment. The wife has a better, higher-paying job, and brighter future career prospects. She also loves her job and gets a significant sense of purpose and fulfillment from advancement in her career. If this couple has children, how should they proceed in terms of caring for them and raising them? Is it right or wrong, advisable or inadvisable, scriptural or unscriptural for the wife to continue with her career and the husband to stay home to raise the family? If this arrangement seems to more closely reflect the personalities and skill sets involved, isn't it likely best for the children and for the overall family unit? (L. Parks)

A Woman of God Questions for Panel Discussion

13. How can a male overseer/teacher understand a woman's problems and point of view? Is not a woman much better suited for this type of teaching? To what extent should women teach other women? (A.J. Higgins)

14. Is a sister's long hair really important? What is "long" hair – is it "uncut" hair? Is it "long" as distinguished from "short"? What about stylized hair that is still long? (D. Alves)

15. Why should a young person "date"? Are there any practical guidelines to help in finding a suitable life partner – Where should I look? How should I look? How long should I keep looking? Are there any potential pitfalls or unwise practices during this phase of life? (L. Parks)

• Spiritual Development in a Godly Woman •

Mr. Gaius Goff

Introduction – How does growth take place?

- By the study of God's Word [1Peter 2:1-3]
- Increasing our knowledge of God [Colossians 1:10]
- Deepening faith [Ephesians 4:13]
- Showing love [Ephesians 4:15-16]
- Developing Christian character [2Peter 1:5-8]

Devotional Needs – Fundamental to knowing God better

- To learn proper attitudes [Matthew 11:28-30]
- For a practical and personal knowledge of the Word [Luke 1, 2]
- To develop character [1Timothy 3:15; 4:7, 16; 2Timothy 1:5; 2:15]
- To effectively minister to others

The Attitudes of Devotion – Keep a submissive and teachable attitude

- I want to know God better [1Corinthians 2:14-15; Ephesians 5:18]
- I want to be like God [Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; Mark 6:34]

The Acts of Devotion – We need an ordered heart

- A time and place to meet [Psalm 46:10; Isaiah 30:15]
- A purpose of meeting - seek Him [Mark 1:35; Genesis 19:27]

The Results of Devotion – An occupied and grateful heart

- Warming of our heart
- Become stronger in faith
- Spirituality increase [Galatians 2:22; Hebrews 5:11-14]
- Sanctification [1Corinthians 6:11; 2Corinthians 3:17-18; 1John 3:1-5]

Lessons in Spiritual Development

- The example of Mary, the devoted worshiper [Luke 10:38-42; John 11; John 12; Matthew 26:1-13; Mark 14:3-9]
- Honor God supremely and others over ourselves
- Worship has priority over service
- Faith has priority over works

• Secular Work and Christian Women •

Dr. Lindsay Parks

1. *The Biblical Ideal (Titus 2:1-5, Proverbs 31)*

- “Older women”- older in years, or in Christian experience.
 - They are to be the primary teachers of women: their subjects are listed: self-control; how to love their husbands; how to love their children; discreet (sound in mind, temperate in opinion); chaste (pure, modest); homemakers (domestically inclined); good; obedient to their husbands (applied humility, Godly submission); a tribute to the truths of the Word of God.
- The woman of Proverbs 31 - This pattern woman was Solomon’s ideal. She was a keeper at home, yet a help to her husband in business. She was a hard worker; disciplined and trustworthy. Her husband’s heart was safe; her children and household felt safe with her. She was a keeper at home, yet a woman of business and commerce. She was unselfish, and was generous to those who were poorer than herself.

2. *The Pragmatic or Practical*

- Single- they often have no choice. God has made their decision for them; thus, they must provide for themselves wherever/whenever possible.
- Widows- of wage-earning age, they also often have no choice.
- Younger couples starting out, who live in areas where the cost of living is very high. If at all possible, it would seem that couples starting out, ideally, should begin life together with a lifestyle based on the husband’s salary alone. If the wife works, save her income.

3. *The Negatives*

- Starting life together, and quickly becoming saddled with huge debt; they simply cannot raise their family, when it comes, without two-income funds. Then, daycare, grandparents or other relatives, latchkey kids etc.
- Despite the wife’s first priority to be to her family, her job can quickly become a career. Those that ultimately suffer most, are the children.
- Attitude is important here...is every attempt being made to meet the Biblical ideal? Application may end up being determined by special needs or circumstances, and the consciences and exercise of the husband/wife.

4. *Cautions and Contacts*

- Dangers in the workplace for the single or married Christian woman.
 - Compromise, susceptibility, dishonesty, separation, the career ladder
- The use of one’s job to share the gospel, and to glorify God. - Luke 16:9- the principle of using worldly gain for Heaven’s sake.

• Seeking a Woman from God – Scriptural Advice for Single Christian Men •

Mr. David Alves

“Who can find a virtuous woman?” – Proverbs 31:10

“A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband.” – Proverbs 12:4

“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.” – Proverbs 18:22

1. *Be pious*

- a) Men that portray godliness (Elisha, in 2 Kings 4:9; Timothy, in 1 Timothy 4:12)
- b) Women that profess godliness (1 Timothy 2:10; Hannah, in 1 Samuel 1, 2; Mary, in Luke 1:46)

2) *Be prayerful*

- a) My path in life: why should I marry? (1 Corinthians 7:7-9)
- b) My partner in life: who should I marry? (Proverbs 3:5-7)

3. *Be persuaded*

- a) Her conversion (2 Corinthians 6:14; Lot, in Genesis 19:26; Samson, in Judges 14:3; Solomon, in 1 Kings 11:1)
- b) Her convictions (“In the Lord”, in 1 Corinthians 7:39; Amos 3:3; Priscilla, in Acts 18:26)

4. *Be productive*

- a) Things spiritual (1 Timothy 4:15-16)
- b) Things secular (1 Timothy 5:8)

5. *Be patient*

- a) When the prospects do not appear (Adam, in Genesis 2:20; Isaac in Genesis 24:3)
- b) When the princess does not accept (Song of Solomon 2:7; 3:5; 8:4)
- c) When the plans do not advance (Ruth, in Ruth 3:18)
- d) When the parents do not agree (Jacob, in Genesis 29:20)

6. *Be perceptive*

- a) Traits in her person (1 Samuel 16:6, 7; Proverbs 31:10-31; Rebekah in Genesis 24:15-28)
- b) Traits in her pedigree (Rachel, in Genesis 31:33-35; Esther, in Esther 2:7; the children of the lady, in 2 John 1, 4)

7. *Be pure*

- a) Your intentions (1 Corinthians 9:3; Joseph, in Matthew 1:18, 19)
- b) Your interactions (1 Timothy 5:22; Joseph, in Genesis 39:11-12; Shechem, in Genesis 34:1-5)

8. *Be practical*

- a) Consideration of class (the Shunammite, in 2 Kings 4:13;)
- b) Contrasts in culture (Abraham, in Genesis 24:4)
- c) Complications in communication (1 Corinthians 14:23 – “Will they not say that ye are mad?”)

9. *Be pleasant*

- a) Distinguished (Song of Solomon 2:3a)
- b) Delightful (Song of Solomon 2:3b-6)

10. *Be prudent*

- a) The time to speak (Ecclesiastes 3:7) – “Will you?”
- b) The time is short (1 Corinthians 7:29) – Courtship need not be like court cases: long and drawn out!

A Virtuous Woman

*Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.
The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.
She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.
She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.
She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.
She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.
She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.
She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.
She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.
She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.
She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.
She is not afraid of the snow for her household; for all her household are clothed with scarlet.
She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.
Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.
She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.
Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.
She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.
She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.
Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.
Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.
Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.
Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.*

Proverbs 31:10-31 (KJV)