

MAIN POINT

God designed both men and women in His image, with equal dignity, worth, and value. God has also given men and women distinct roles in His creation.

INTRODUCTION

Who were some of your heroines growing up? Who are your heroines now that you are an adult?

What are some of the characteristics you admire most in these women? Has a heroine of yours ever disappointed you? What traits led to your disappointment?

Certainly, no one is perfect. As we grow we learn that our heroines and heroes all have clay feet. The best role models know this as well, and so even when they sin they can teach us how to ask for forgiveness, in failure they can teach us humility, and even in success, they can teach us how to win with grace. In today's lesson, we will study what it means to be a woman according to God's definition and not the world's.

DISCUSSION

> READ EPHESIANS 5:22-33 AND PROVERBS 31:10-31.

What are some of the words used to describe a godly woman in these verses?

We often think of the husband as the "provider" for the family, but how is that word also applicable to the woman described in Proverbs 31?

How does the woman described in these passages compare to modern views on womanhood? How do these passages challenge those views?

What kind of attitude does the woman of Proverbs 31 have? What does it mean that she can "laugh at the time to come"?

How do our attitudes and actions flow from our "fear of the LORD" (or lack thereof)?

How does our relationship with the Lord affect our character?

Do you think that being industrious is a godly virtue? How can we read this passage as an encouragement instead of feeling inadequate?

What steps can we take to ensure that, at the end of our days, we will be remembered as ones who feared and loved the Lord?

APPLICATION

If you are a woman, how do you need to step into the role God has given you this week? If you are a man, how can you encourage the women in your life to follow God's design for them?