



## **A Real Mom**

Series: *Mother's Day* Proverbs 31

May 13, 2018

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*This passage is supposed to be read as **poetry***

What attributes do you value in your wife or mom?

Write words that start with the letters in 'MOTHER' and share them.

**M** -

**O** -

**T** -

**H** -

**E** -

**R** -

### ***Three challenges...***

1. Place more value on the **spiritual** than the **physical**

1 Peter 3:3-4; Proverbs 31:22, 25, 26

2. Place more value on the **fear** of the Lord than the **praise** of people

Proverbs 31:30

3. Place more value on serving **others** rather than serving **yourself**

Proverbs 31:15, 21, 16, 17, 11, 20; Luke 9:23-24; Proverbs 31:28

# Growth Group Questions

All references from New International Version (NIV)

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. On the note sheet, Brian put an acrostic for the letters in the word 'MOTHER'. Did you fill that out? If so, share it with your group. What are the attributes in your wife or mother that you appreciate?

2. If you're a husband, think back to the time when you were searching for a woman to be your wife. What are the top five attributes you were looking for?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Brian made the statement that there is no 'love' without 'truth'. Do you agree? The Apostle Paul says in Ephesians 4:15, "...speak the truth in love." Sometimes the truth is hard to hear, but it's what we need to hear. Read...

### **Zechariah 8:16**

<sup>16</sup> These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts.

### **John 8:31-32**

<sup>31</sup> To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

### **Ephesians 4:25**

<sup>25</sup> Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

### **1 John 3:18**

<sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

If a brother or sister in Christ comes to you to 'speak the truth in love', how do you take that? How do you know if you should do anything about it?

If you come to the worship service and you're taught something from the Bible that hits home with you and you need to change, do you change? Read James 1:22-25.

2. In the sermon, Brian looked at the 'Proverbs 31 woman' and compared her to the 'Vogue woman' of our culture. Proverbs 31 is a mother teaching her son poetry about what he should value in a wife. The first thing we looked at is 'Place more value on the spiritual than the physical.' Read these verses...

**Matthew 5:5**

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

**2 Corinthians 4:16**

<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

**1 Peter 2:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**1 Peter 3:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. <sup>4</sup> Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

Why is it so easy to let our culture dictate what we should value in a wife? What can you do to make sure you are valuing what God values?

Proverbs 31:22 says, "...she is clothed in fine linen and purpose." So that means she cares about how she looks. She wants to be physically attractive. How can we strive to be 'physically attractive' without slipping into what our culture emphasizes, that physical attractiveness is the most important?

3. Brian said we need to place more value on the 'fear of the Lord' than the 'praise of people'. What does it mean to fear the Lord? Read these verses...

**Proverbs 1:7**

<sup>7</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**Proverbs 8:13**

<sup>13</sup> To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

### **Ecclesiastes 12:13**

<sup>13</sup> Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.

### **Matthew 10:28**

<sup>28</sup> Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

When you were growing up, did your parents punish you? For what things did you get punished? Now as an adult, do you see that as a good thing?

In what sense can the ‘fear of the Lord’ be thought of as, “If I don’t obey God’s commands, He’s going to punish me?” Or, can it be thought of that way?

4. Brian mentioned that there is a woman’s magazine simply titled *Self*. This magazine focuses on you. It’s all about you. Yet we learn from the Bible that we should place more value on serving others than serving yourself. Read...

### **Proverbs 31:15**

<sup>15</sup> She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants.

### **Matthew 23:11**

<sup>11</sup> The greatest among you will be your servant.

### **Philippians 2:4**

<sup>4</sup> Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

### **1 Peter 4:10**

<sup>10</sup> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

When you were growing up, was your mom a servant? If so, what specific examples can you give of how she served you and your family?

Do you see yourself as a servant? If not, how could you improve?

## **TAKING IT HOME**

Based on this week’s sermon and homework, what is the most important thing for you to remember and why?