

# GOD'S IDEAL WOMAN

by

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## CHAPTER SIX

### GOD'S IDEAL WOMAN

THE DICTIONARY DEFINES the word “ideal” as “*conforming to a standard of perfection; existing in imagination only.*”

It is humanly impossible to live a perfect life, but with God's help and power you can meet His high standards.

Many books have been written about physical charm, poise and beauty; but I am writing now about the beauty of character. In the thirty-first chapter of Proverbs we find a perfect example of beautiful, noble womanhood.

I like to think of her as God's crown of creation, possessing twelve beautiful jewels. We notice that she is virtuous, trustworthy, energetic, physically fit, economical, unselfish, prepared, honorable, prudent, lovable, God-fearing and rewarded.

Let us briefly examine each of them.

#### VIRTUOUS

**“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies”** (vs. 10).

You cannot think of anything more valuable than virtue. Someone has said that it would be better to die a million deaths than to live in sin. People exist as sinners, but as Christians they really live. Purity has power and demands respect.

Many girls yield to temptations, let down the bars, and sacrifice upon the altar of lust their priceless virtue. It is a sad picture when you fail to see the roses of purity blooming in the cheeks of girls. Sinful lusts soon cut lines of dissipation in your face.

Christ will give you power to walk the only path that counts — the path of purity. To live a pure, Christian life should be the ambition of everyone.

**“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God”** (Matthew 5:8).

## TRUSTWORTHY

**“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”** (vss. 11 and 12).

What a compliment to say that she is “true blue!” Any man could trust a woman like this. He knows she would never let him down and that she would rather die than betray his trust. She knows how to keep secrets, but no secrets are kept from each other because they are one in everything.

She is understanding, encouraging, sympathetic and tactful. She is not moody, but has a stability that is a constant brace and inspiration to her husband. When temptation comes, she is there to help him be victorious.

Dependability is a lost art with many people. Our motto, “True to Christ,” is all-inclusive. When we are loyal to Christ, no one else will suffer for lack of fidelity. **“Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life”** (Revelation 2:10).

## ENERGETIC

**“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 layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.”**

**“She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.”**

**“She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.”**  
(Proverbs 31:13-16, 19, 24, 27)

She is a worker—not a shirker! She is never lazy. Her heart, head, hands, feet—in fact, her entire being is dedicated to the welfare of her household.

Her Christianity is practical and is expressed in sacrificial service. You will never find her wasting her time at a bridge club because she always has worthwhile things to do. She enjoys her work and, in spite of seeming monotony, performs it with a cheery smile.

**“Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger”** (Proverbs 19:15).

## PHYSICALLY FIT

**“She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms”** (vs. 17).

She realizes she must be healthy in order to perform her strenuous duties efficiently. She watches her diet because she knows the truth of the old adage, “Many people dig their graves with their teeth.”

In the midst of her tasks she does not forget the importance of taking time out for recreation. A long hike, a fishing trip or some games in the open air with the children has an invigorating effect on her weary body, and not only adds years to her life, but also cuts down on the doctor bill.

God’s ideal woman is free from all habits that would injure her physically, mentally or spiritually. She realizes that her body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and she does her best to make it a fit dwelling place for Him.

**“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s”** (I Corinthians 6:19-20).

## ECONOMICAL

**“She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night”** (vs. 18).

She runs her business on a balanced budget, an accomplishment which is reached by very few governments. She gets good things, in fact the best, but she knows the value of money and how to spend it. She would rather do without some things than to burden the family with difficult installments and staggering debts.

You would almost think that this woman was a magician because she has learned to make old things look new again. You would also be surprised to know that a lovely meal had been prepared from “leftovers.” The word “waste” is not in her vocabulary.

“A penny saved is a penny earned,” said Benjamin Franklin, and this statement is a thrifty reality in the home of God’s ideal woman.

## UNSELFISH

**“She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy”** (vs. 20).

Can you blame the neighbors for loving her? The aged, sick and shut-ins find in her their best friend. She is never too busy with her own affairs to rush to the assistance of others.

She seems to know when someone is in need and either takes or sends the necessities. Her words bring comfort, hope and cheer to many people along life's way.

**“And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant”** (Matthew 20:27).

**“God loveth a cheerful giver”** (II Corinthians 9:7).

Her philosophy is expressed in the poem:

Lord, help me live from day to day  
In such a self-forgetful way,  
That even when I kneel to pray,  
My prayers will be for Others.

Help me in all the work I do  
To ever be sincere and true  
And know that all I do for You  
Must needs be done for Others.

Let self be crucified and slain,  
And buried deep, and all in vain  
May efforts be to rise again,  
Unless to live for Others.

And when my work on earth is done,  
And my new work in heaven's begun,  
May I forget the crown I've won,  
While thinking still of Others.

Others, Lord, yes Others,  
Let this my motto be;  
Help me to live for Others,  
That I may live like Thee.

### **PREPARED**

**“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”** (vss. 21-22).

She knows that the winds of winter will blow, and that the Earth will be covered with a blanket of snow, but she and her family are ready for it. Let us peep into her pantry and see the delicious fruits and vegetables canned and stored away. Her foresight protects her when the rainy days come.

She is prepared for life and for death because she knows the Saviour.

People with true wisdom always make proper preparation for the inevitable. We should all adopt the Scouts' motto, "Be prepared!"

**"Prepare to meet thy God"** (Amos 4:12).

### **HONORABLE**

**"Strength and honour are her clothing"** (vs 25).

The style for this outfit was designed, not in Paris or Hollywood, but in Heaven. The poor can enjoy garments made of these eternal fabrics, strength and honor, just the same as the rich.

God's ideal woman keeps her clothing spotless. Strength and honor can be soiled and spoiled very quickly by Satan. She abstains from the very appearance of evil. She can blush, and she knows what it means for a woman to be modest.

She has divine strength and can stand alone if necessary. She has strong convictions about right and wrong. She does not follow the crowd or do things just because it happens to be customary. She knows that right always wins and that wrong always loses.

Her garments of strength and honor protect her from the foul winds of popularity which blow so many women over the precipice of worldliness and disgrace.

**"But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth"** (I Timothy 5:6).

**"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold"** (Proverbs 22:1).

### **PRUDENT**

**"She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness"** (vs. 26).

To be prudent is to be "*practically wise, careful of the consequences of measures or actions; judicious; cautious; circumspect.*"

You would expect this woman to give good advice. She can be firm and yet very kind. People like to confide in her because she never gossips. Everyone knows that she is truthful and values her friendship. She cannot be numbered among the people described in the following poem:

### **PEOPLE WILL TALK**

Yes, people will talk, the saying is true,  
They talk about me, they talk about you;  
If we go to the opera, someone will say,  
We should go to church and learn how to pray.

If we go to church and offer up prayers,  
They say we are hypocrites and putting on “airs”;  
If we are rich, they call us a thief,  
Scoff at our sorrows and laugh at our grief.

If we are poor, they say that we shirk,  
We’re always lazy and never would work;  
They talk of our prospects, they talk of our past,  
And if we are happy, they say it can’t last.

They talk of our loved ones, they talk of our foes,  
They talk of our follies, they talk of our woes;  
They talk of our joys, they talk of our fears,  
They talk of our smiles, they talk of our tears.

They talk if we’re single, they talk if we’re wed,  
They talk of us living, they talk of us dead;  
Tho’ we live like an angel with circumspect walk,  
Our efforts are useless, for people will talk.

The reputation of many has been ruined to the gossip’s tune of “They say!” A good policy to follow is this: know that gossip is true before you repeat it, and then don’t repeat it!

**“And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell”** (James 3:6).

**“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him”** (James 1:5).

## LOVABLE

**“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”** (vss. 28 and 29).

Everyone loves her because she is so lovable. She lives consistent as a mother and wife. It is natural for her children and husband to love, honor, respect and praise her.

As a true mother she tells her children at the proper time about some facts and secrets of life which unfortunately are withheld from some. She warns them of evil, thereby making it easier for them to be overcomers. She is so tactful that they feel free to ask her questions and to confide in her. To be lovely we must love Christ and others.

**“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself”** (Luke 10:27).

## **GOD-FEARING**

**“Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised”** (vs. 30).

God’s ideal woman has a true perspective of values. She knows that it is easy to be deceived by favor or popularity and that beauty can be so vain and shallow.

This woman in Proverbs did not know about Calvary and grace as we do, though I have applied the message to our day; but she was true to her God. This was the secret of her spotless character, her abiding influence and her marvelous success. Hers was a reverential fear which means that she stood in awe, venerated, worshipped and loved her Lord with all her heart. Are the following verses a reality in your life?

**“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you”** (Matthew 6:33).

**“That in all things he might have the preeminence”** (Colossians 1:18).

**“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain”** (Philippians 1:21).

## **REWARDED**

**“Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates. She shall rejoice in time to come”** (vss 31, 25).

She is rewarded here and hereafter. What greater reward could she desire in this life than the consciousness that she had done her best for her Saviour, family, friends and neighbors? She was assured that her influence would never die.

What greater reward could she ask, after leaving this world, than the happy privilege of living and reigning throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity with her Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ? She will enjoy the beautiful city, the fellowship with dear ones, the heavenly music and many other things; but the joy and thrill of the ages will be to see Jesus and to be like Him forevermore.

**“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth nil yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is”** (I John 3:2).

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