

PARENTING: Wisdom for Mothering

TMS Seminary Wives Discipleship

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I. Two Common Questions

A. What does it mean to be a **wise woman** in my generation?

B. How can I be a godly wife and mother when there's so much **conflicting information** in today's culture?

II. Performance-based mothering: the human-nature driven response

A. I always have to **choose** the right thing.

B. I am **perfect** in my choices.

C. Examples of a mother's trust of choices:

1. She is trusting in **her ability** to make her child good, by keeping evil away.
2. She is trusting in her ability to keep her **child healthy** by keeping germs and disease away.
3. She is trusting in her ability to give her child the **ideal life**, according to *her* definition.

III. Wise mothering: giving careful thought to living as a woman who fears God

A. Our parental choices are made in the context of **trust** and **fear**. In other words, the decision will be made based on who we trust and fear.

B. There is **rest** and **refreshment** in fearing the Lord. (Prov. 3:7-8)

IV. What exactly does it mean to fear the Lord? (Proverbs 31:10-31)

A. Two **approaches** to Proverbs 31

1. The woman who trusts in her **performance** to “save” her children and thus see this as a **checklist**.
2. The woman who trusts in the Lord and lives in the fear of the Lord, and thus see this as a **gentle guide** for living **wisely**.

B. In Proverbs, the pursuit of wisdom and the pursuit of the fear of the Lord are 2 sides of the **same coin**. Therefore, in being a God-fearing woman, everything the P31 woman did was a **pursuit of wisdom**.

C. The similarities between “wisdom” and the “P31 woman.”

P31 Woman

Wisdom

She is an excellent wife. Pr. 31:10	Is not wisdom excellent? (Pr. 3:13-18)
Her worth is far more precious than jewels. (Pr. 31:10)	Is not wisdom more precious than jewels? (Pr. 3:15; 8:11)
Her husband’s heart can trust in her because she will do him good and not harm all the days of her life (Pr. 31:11-12)	Will not wisdom do you good and not harm all the days of your life? (Pr. 4:6)
This woman will work for you, feed you, clothe you, working into the night to make sure you are provided for (Pr. 31:13-21)	Will not wisdom do all these things and more for you if you embrace her? (Pr. 4: 8-9)
She will be beautiful, clothed in fine linen and purple; her family will be well respected because of her (Pr. 31:22-31)	Wisdom is beauty personified, and others will listen to you will respect because of her. (Pr. 3:13-18)

D. If you search for wisdom and find it, you will find yourself **bearing** the **characteristics** of this amazing woman.

V. More implications for living in the fear of the Lord

A. You will live in a proper fear of the Lord **as opposed** to living in the fear of the unknown future that lies before you and your children. (Ps. 40:1-4)

B. God's Word becomes that which you believe **more** than you believe your fears. You demonstrate that belief in His Word through obedience to it.

1. Deut. 10:12-13

2. Ps. 128:1

3. Ps. 112:1

VI. Practical application

In chapter 11 of *Courage: Fighting Fear with Fear*, Wayne and Josh Mack describe how people who fear God in the biblical sense also trust Him.

- People who fear God trust His **omnipotence**—that He is all-powerful
- People who fear God trust His **omniscience**—that He is all-wise and all-knowing
- People who fear God trust His **omnipresence**—that He is present everywhere and they can never be out of His presence
- People who fear God trust His **goodness**—that He is loving, gracious, merciful, patient and willing to forgive
- People who fear God trust His **truthfulness**—that He will not and cannot lie. He will keep all His promises, and whatever He says in His Word is true.
- People who fear God trust in His **faithfulness** and **changelessness**—that He isn't one thing one day and something else the next.
- People who fear God trust in **His interpretation of reality**—that He knows exactly what is happening, why it happens, and what to do about it to make it right.
- People who fear God trust **what He has to say about the way they should live, about what is right and wrong; that His ways are best.**
- People who fear God trust **His Word so completely that they make it the standard by which they evaluate all things and believe that any idea that does not line up with Scripture is wrong.**