

Excellence in Ministry – Part 1

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I. What is ministry?

- A. Includes many things.
- B. Meeting the needs of others through the Word of God.
- C. Whatever God asks us to do.
- D. Serving right where you are.
- E. Synonym—serving.
- F. Serve one another.

II. Philosophy of ministry.

- A. To help another person center their life in Jesus Christ.
- B. Overflowing of Godliness in my life to other people.
- C. To help people find their gifts and motivate them to use their gifts for the Lord.
- D. Long-term process.
- E. Always changing and maturing.
- F. Looks different at different seasons of life.
- G. Being obedient and stewards of what God has given us.
- H. A Godly woman whose goal is excellence in ministry will maintain priorities.

III. Example of ministry in Proverbs 31.

- A. Excellence means strength in Hebrew.
- B. Includes: intelligent, capable, brave, worthy and virtuous.
- C. A Godly woman who is strong in the Lord is rare.
- D. Her husband.
 - 1. Trusted in her.
 - a. Emotionally.

- b. Spiritually.
 - c. Physically.
 - d. Financially.
- 2. Was an elder.
 - E. She does her husband good—not she makes him good.
 - F. Whatever she did she did in delight.
 - G. Creative in her cooking and homemaking.
 - H. Got up early.
 - 1. Time with Lord.
 - 2. Organized household.
 - I. Had maidens.
 - 1. So do we!
 - J. Considers a field and bought it.
 - 1. Freed her husband for ministry.
 - a. Helpmeet mentality.
 - b. What do we do when husbands don't help us?
 - K. Girds herself with strength.
 - 1. Spiritual.
 - 2. Emotional.
 - 3. Physical.
 - L. Senses her gain is good.
 - 1. Content with role that God has given her.
 - M. Lamp does not go out at night.
 - 1. Testimony to her organization.
 - N. Sensitive to those in need around her.
 - 1. After she met the needs of her family.

- 2. Keeping her priorities straight.
- O. Prepared and ready and organized.
- P. Looked nice—dressed well.
- Q. Creatively added to income from their home.
- R. True clothing.
 - 1. Her strength is in the Lord.
 - 2. Her dignity comes from her worth in Jesus Christ.
- S. Smile at the future.
 - 1. Trust God with our life.
- T. Opens her mouth in wisdom and have kindness on her tongue.
 - 1. Be a woman of the Book.
- U. Looks well to the ways of her house.
 - 1. Doesn't say she is perfect with a perfect home.
- V. Did not eat the bread of idleness.
 - 1. Maintain a continual watchfulness.
- W. Her children rise up and bless her.
- X. Her husband praises her.
 - 1. Her family praised her—not the poor.
 - 2. Toward the end of her life.
 - 3. Looking back and remembering the good things.
- Y. Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain.
- Z. She fears the Lord.
 - 1. A reverence and respect that result in obedience.
 - 2. A wholesome dread of ever displeasing God.
 - 3. Realizing one day we will give an account of our life to god.

4. Judged on what we built with. (1 Corinthians 3)

IV. Actions of Ministry.

A. Goal.

1. Something I want that I can control.

a. Like wanting to loose weight.

b. Paul's goal was to please God. (2 Corinthians 5:9)

1) Can do something.

B. Desire.

1. Something I want that I cannot control.

a. Like wanting someone else to lose weight.

b. Paul's desire to lose the thorn in his flesh.

1) Can pray about it.

C. Conclusion.

1. Everything the Proverbs 31 woman did was a goal.

a. She took responsibility for her life before God.

b. Her husband "sat" at the gates.

2. Being an excellent woman has nothing to do with anyone else.

a. Husband.

b. Children.

c. Circumstances.

3. God has given us everything for life and godliness.

4. Whose responsibility is it that we are excellent?

V. Priorities in ministry.

A. Relationship with God.

B. Relationship with her husband.

C. Relationship with her family and home.

D. Relationship with self.

E. Relationship with others in her ministry.

VI. Glorify God in ministry.

A. Do all that we do to the Glory of God—that is why we are here!

B. Our first line of ministry is to our family—husband and children.

C. Lost our helpmeet mentality.

D. Healthy fear of hindering the will of God in your husband's life.

E. What kind of wife are you?