

Transforming Daily
“ . . . a virtuous woman . . . ”
Ruth 3:11

What does it mean to be a virtuous woman, or in general a person of virtue? Well obviously, if one is speaking of a virtuous woman, the first qualification would be that the one being spoken of must be a woman. In the storyline of Ruth, it is she who is being spoken of. The reason for the distinction is based on her conduct toward Naomi, and Boaz in particular. The characteristics of Ruth are love, patience, submission, humility, morality, perseverance, wisdom, and obedience to Godly counsel, just to name a few. So, too, in general a person of virtue, irrespective of gender, would demonstrate such qualities as well.

“Virtue” ranks among many of the forgotten words and disciplines of integrity and character (which are also words quickly fading from the scene of courteous and respectful living). In Philippians 4:8, the Bible speaks of virtue in good company with such words as true, noble, just, pure, lovely, good report, praise worthy. The word “virtue” is based on the concept of “value,” “preciousness,” or “priceless” quality. For the Christian, “virtue” refers to any attribute or characteristic of God. Granted, not all characteristics of God are transferrable (see communicable and incommunicable characteristics of God). God’s chief characteristic is Holiness. There is none of His creation who is holy like He is Holy. However, we can be holy in comparison to the world, that is, set apart from the world, “in it, but not of it.”

On the other hand we can love as He loves. We can forgive as He forgives. We can show compassion as He shows compassion. We can edify others as He edifies others, etc. The power and indwelling of the Holy Spirit makes all this possible, and more.

Proverbs 31:10 asks the rhetorical question, “Who can find a virtuous woman (wife)?” Then in the following verses describes the value and priceless worth of a virtuous woman. If you read these verses with a sanctified mind, you’ll find the motivation behind the acts of a virtuous woman (person). Among the motivating characteristics you’ll find: love, compassion, justice, honor, respect, submission, perseverance, wisdom, and patience, again, just to name a few.

Are you a person of virtue in Christ? Do you feel that the world revolves around you? How often do you think of God or others before yourself? Do you wrestle with submission, respect, reverence, and service? Are you patient, kind, loving and considerate with those whom you find testy, mean spirited, unlovable, and self-indulgent? Ladies, wives, moms, what about you specifically, how do you measure up with Proverbs 31:10-31? Do you answer, in description of verses 11-31, the rhetorical question in verse 10, “Who can find a virtuous woman?”