

**Psalm 78:5-6 (NLT2)**

*For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, so the next generation might know them—even the children not yet born—and they in turn will teach their own children.*

What if we taught our young men and women about a Proverbs 31 woman at a young age instead of after they are married? Think about that for a minute. In any women's bible study, probably at least 90% of those women's studies, there was at least one teaching, or series of teachings on being a Proverb 31 woman.

So, you may even be thinking, why would I want to teach a young man about Proverbs 31, isn't that for women? Actually, it's not, and we know that when we read the verse first verse of Proverbs 31.

† **Proverbs 31:1** *The words of King Lemuel, the utterance which his mother taught him:*

Notice it doesn't say King Lemuel mother taught it to her daughter, but rather to him, her son. So does that mean we should not teach this to the women? No, because notice today's devotional verse tells us *"to teach them to their children"* (both male and female) about God's word. And proverbs 31 is part of God's word. Yet we tend to take Proverbs 31 and teach it to women, AFTER they are married, which if you think about it, is backwards, because if we taught both our young men and women Proverbs 31, wouldn't there be less divorces as men would be taught how to find a Godly woman to marry, and telling our young women (even young girls) how to be that Godly woman before she is even married.

† **Titus 2:6 (NLT2)** *In the same way, encourage the young men to live wisely.*

† **Titus 2:4** *that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children.*

So we tell the young men to find a Proverbs 31 woman to marry, but we should also teach the young woman to find an Ephesian's 5 (**Eph 5:25-33**) man to marry. Because if we just place it all on the women, we are wrong. In fact, the young men should be taught even more how to be a Godly man, because he is responsible for his family (his wife, kids, grandkids) after he gets married.

Think about it this way, we spend so much time on fixing marriages after they are broken, instead of doing preventative maintenance so they won't break. And that preventive maintenance is teaching our young men and women how to be, men and women, husbands and wives, moms and dads, of God.

So let me encourage moms to teach your children, both boys and girls, about Proverbs 31, and even dads, you can also teach this to your children. Also Dads, teach your boys how to be a **Eph 5:25-33** man as well. If you do, his future wife will probably thank you.

- † **Proverbs 22:6 (MSG)** *Point your kids in the right direction— when they're old they won't be lost.*
  
- † **Proverbs 1:1-4 (MSG)** *These are the wise sayings of Solomon, David's son, Israel's king— Written down so we'll know how to live well and right, to understand what life means and where it's going; A manual for living, for learning what's right and just and fair; To teach the inexperienced the ropes and give our young people a grasp on reality.*
  
- † **Ephesians 5:25-33** *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*