

**May: Walk in Love with the Mothers  
and Other Women in Your Life**  
Cresta McGowan



**Verse:**

Proverbs 31:10-30 (NIV)

Read out loud together. Try listening to it as hearing it for the first time.

**Upward Gaze:**

Dear Heavenly Father, As a woman, society has taught me to compete with other women. As I read your word, help me to see the message of biblical relationships with other women as my guiding light. It doesn't. Amen

**Development of theme:**

I think many of you would agree that looking at today's verse is almost exhausting. In each part we see all the responsibilities given to us as women. The clothing and laundry (Verse 13), the ongoing cooking - *must we eat three meals a day* - (Verses 14-15), maintaining what is needed for our home, husbands and children (Verse 16, 21-24), and working sunup to sundown and beyond (Verses 17-19). But it doesn't end here - no ma'am! Outside of our home we grow a business (18) and reach out to those less fortunate (20).

That's quite a haul, but I'm glad for it. I rejoice in the expectations God has given me as a woman and I'm proud to share this in my walk with other women. Because, my sisters in Christ, look what the Lord tells us next:

We are clothed in strength and dignity, we can laugh, we speak with wisdom and offer sound advice, we keep our homes and ourselves from idleness (you know what they say idle hands...), our children love us. We are blessed. We are noble. We are His.

Beauty fades. Charm is deceptive, but we who fear the Lord are worthy of his praise.

Hallelujah! Shout a little louder for the folks in the back - HALLELUJAH!!

This role we fulfill as chosen women of God can be daunting at times. I don't deny that some days the yoke around my neck can seem overwhelming. And it is these moments God has given use the most sound support we could ask for: other women.

These women - our friends, our mothers, our mothers-in-law, our sisters and sisters in Christ, help us through the tough times so that we emerge refreshed and renewed. When Naomi she lost her husband and both her sons, Ruth remained loyal. Naomi encouraged Ruth to return to her people, but Ruth refused telling her, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her" (Ruth 1:16-18). The Lord blessed Ruth ten-fold. We must be like Ruth, refusing to allow our fellow women in this journey of life to be alone. Cling to one another, support one another, and encourage one another.

As we spend the month of May celebrating mothers, remember all they've done for us. Both our biological mother or a friend God has sent to nurture your Christian soul. A noble woman is a human reflection of the Woman Wisdom (Proverbs 1:20-33). She represents God's wisdom and even God himself. In essence, she embodies Godly wisdom. Walk in love with mothers and other women in your life.

**Inward Glimpse (Reflection):**

Reread Proverbs 1:20-33 and reflect on the personification of Wisdom as a woman in this verse.

- How am I providing wisdom for other women?
- Am I setting the example of Godly wisdom?

**Outward Glance (Discussion):**

In your local group, discuss ways women can support one another. Make a list and give a moment for each to reflect on where she can improve her support or go about it in different ways. Society has taught women to be very competitive and judgmental. How can we as women in Christ rebuke this idea and set forth a new example?

**One more peek:**

How is this woman a model for today? (31:10–31)

This wife of noble character was productive and ingenious—so much so that she can be intimidating to women who seek to follow her example. But while everyone can benefit from her example of initiative and hard work, the main lesson she offers us relates to her outlook rather than her output.

All of this woman's qualities and accomplishments grew out of her fear of the Lord (v. 30). Fearing God was her central virtue, and this attitude toward God is as crucial for today's women as it was for women then. The fear of the Lord not only undergirds our growth in wisdom but also draws us to the grace of Jesus, the one who forgives our sin and equips us for righteous living.

This woman's life was dedicated to service to others: her husband, her children, her servants (v. 15) and the poor and needy (v. 20). She served them with eagerness (v. 13), resourcefulness (v. 16), and strength (v. 17, 25). She was neither hindered nor demeaned by serving others. Rather, she was fulfilled by it, because godly service is the source of true nobility.