

Principles of Economic Liberty ~ Session 3
The Free Market Is a Friend to the Virtuous Wife of Proverbs 31

1. In Proverbs 31:10-31, where do you find evidence of the virtuous wife's economic activities and of her exercising her inherent rights, rights such those listed at the top of the right column?
2. How does the passage demonstrate and emphasize this woman's dignity and worth?
3. What responsibilities does the woman fulfill? Describe her apparent attitude in working to fulfill them.
4. What kind of success is this woman experiencing in her pursuit of happiness? How do you know?
5. How do her industry and activities showcase the reality that God made her in His image?

Proverbs 31:10-31

¹⁰ Who can find a virtuous wife?
For her worth is far above rubies.
¹¹ The heart of her husband safely trusts her;
So he will have no lack of gain.
¹² She does him good and not evil
All the days of her life.
¹³ She seeks wool and flax,
And willingly works with her hands.
¹⁴ She is like the merchant ships,
She brings her food from afar.
¹⁵ She also rises while it is yet night,
And provides food for her household,
And a portion for her maidservants.
¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it;
From her profits she plants a vineyard.
¹⁷ She girds herself with strength,
And strengthens her arms.
¹⁸ She perceives that her merchandise is good,
And her lamp does not go out by night.
¹⁹ She stretches out her hands to the distaff,
And her hand holds the spindle.
²⁰ She extends her hand to the poor,
Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.
²¹ She is not afraid of snow for her household,
For all her household is clothed with scarlet.
²² She makes tapestry for herself;
Her clothing is fine linen and purple.
²³ Her husband is known in the gates,
When he sits among the elders of the land.
²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells them,
And supplies sashes for the merchants.
²⁵ Strength and honor are her clothing;
She shall rejoice in time to come.
²⁶ She opens her mouth with wisdom,
And on her tongue is the law of kindness.
²⁷ She watches over the ways of her household,
And does not eat the bread of idleness.
²⁸ Her children rise up and call her blessed;
Her husband also, and he praises her:

Ronald Nash names these as
examples of unalienable rights:

- the right to make decisions
- the right to be free
- the right to hold property
- the right to exchange what one owns for something else

²⁹ "Many daughters have done well,
But you excel them all."
³⁰ Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing,
But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be
praised.
³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands,
And let her own works praise her in the gates.