

The Biblical Value of a Woman

People have misused the Bible.

The evil one is the father of lies.

God asks some hard things of both men and women.

Both men and women need encouragement to live out their roles.

Women bring something beautiful into the world.

The Old Testament and Women

Made in his image

Genesis 1:27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Matthew 19:4 “Haven’t you read,” [Jesus] replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’

Wives viewed as partners

Genesis 2:22-24 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. ²³ The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” ²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Ecclesiastes 9:9 Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun—all your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun.

Both father and mother to be honored by children

From Ten Commandments: Exodus 20:4 “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.”

Wives are seen as blessings.

Proverbs 19:14 Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the Lord.

Proverbs 5:18-19 May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. ¹⁹ A loving doe, a graceful deer – may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love. (NIV)

Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD. (NIV)

Proverbs 31:1-31 The sayings of King Lemuel-- an oracle his mother taught him . . . A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. ¹¹Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. ¹²She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. ¹³She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. ¹⁴She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. ¹⁵She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. ¹⁶She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. ¹⁷She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. ¹⁸She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. ¹⁹In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. ²⁰She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. ²¹When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. ²²She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. ²³Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. ²⁴She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. ²⁵She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. ²⁶She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. ²⁷She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ²⁹"Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." ³⁰Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. ³¹Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate. (NIV)

Women of good character are respected.

Proverbs 11:16 A kindhearted woman gains respect, but ruthless men gain only wealth. (NIV)

Proverbs 12:4 A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones. (NIV)

Women were often presented as heroines.

- Rahab (Hall of Faith) Clever and brave
- Ruth Loyal
- Deborah / Jael Wise - Strong – Doing what needed to be done
- Abigail Wise – Saves the day
- Esther Daring

Jesus and Women

Jesus descended from Mary, not Joseph.

Jesus listened to his mother and turned water into wine. (John 2:3-4)

Jesus interacted favorably with women many times.

- Woman at the Well - Jesus interacts with her (even though she was a Samaritan), reveals himself as the Messiah for the first time. When they return, the disciples are shocked that he is talking to a woman.
- Bleeding woman (Matthew 9:18-26) – Jesus, interrupted from a task requested by a man, stopped to talk to her and commend her for her faith.
- The Canaanite Woman (Bread Crumbs Lady of Matthew 15) – Instead of sending her away like his disciples asked, Jesus commended her for her faith and healed her daughter.
- “Sinner” who anointed him (Luke 7:36-50) (Jesus praises the woman and implies his host, Simon, has very little love for him.)
- Adulterous Woman (John 8:1-11) - Jesus rescues the woman and shames the men.
- Mary and Martha - Jesus encouraged Martha to listen to him rather than serve the men. (Luke 10:41-42)
- Anointing at Bethany - Matthew 26:13 I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." NIV
- Poor woman given praise over rich men (Luke 21:1-4)

Jesus spoke favorably of women in his parables.

- Persistent widow (Luke 18:1-8)
- Lost coin (Luke 15:3-11)
- Ten virgins (five wise and five foolish) (Matthew 25)

After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to a woman first.

John 20:14 At this, [Mary Magdalene] turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

Women were involved in his ministry.

Luke 8:1-3 After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; ³ Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

Mark 15:40-41 Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. ⁴¹ In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

New Testament and Women

Women were prominent in the early church.

Acts 1:14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Acts 2:18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 16:13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.

Acts 17:4 Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

Acts 17:12 As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

Equal value as men

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Husbands commanded to...

Love as Christ loved the church (Eph 5:25, 33, Col 3:19)

Love their wives as their own bodies (Eph. 5:28)

Love their wives as themselves (Eph. 5:33)

Feed and care for them. (Eph. 5:29)

Not be harsh with (Col. 3:19)

Be considerate with them (1 Peter 3:7)

Respect them (1 Peter 3:7)

Treat gently as the weaker gender (1 Peter 3:7)

Treat as coheirs with Christ (1 Peter 3:7)

Fulfill their wives' sexual needs (1 Cor. 7:3)

1 Corinthians 7:3 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife . . . (NIV)

Ephesians 5:25-30 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church – ³⁰for we are members of his body. (NIV)

Ephesians 5:33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself . . . (NIV)

Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. (NIV)

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. (NIV)

Women are to be treated with respect and purity.

1 Timothy 5:1-2 . . . Treat . . . older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity. (NIV)

Widows were to be provided for.

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. NIV

2 John is addressed to a woman

2 John 1:1 To the lady chosen by God and to her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth—

Angels appeared to women (as well as men).

Hagar, Samson's mother, Mary (mother of Jesus), Mary Magdalene (at resurrection)

Women in the hall of faith

- Hebrews 11:11 And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise.
- Hebrews 11:31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.
- Hebrews 11:35a Women received back their dead, raised to life again.

This is a horribly cold world at times, and terrible things happen to both men and women. That does not mean that they have God's stamp of approval.

The mistreated concubine - Judges 19:16-30

Wife snatching - Judges 21:15-23

There are some things I don't understand, but I trust that God is good and is doing a good job running the universe!

There are some things I don't understand, but I trust that the Bible gives good direction on how to follow God's ways.

The value of women is the same as men. Jesus died to redeem you.