

Women's Role in Society

I. Relationships

A. Dad/Mom:

Obey them...Eph. 6:1, Col. 3:20
Honor them...Eph. 6:2, [Gen. 2:24]

B. Husband:

Help him...Gen. 2:18, 20-25, 1 Cor. 11:3, 8-9, 11-12
Love him...Titus 2:3-5
Submit to him...Eph. 5:22-24, Col. 3:18, Titus 2:5, 1 Pet. 3:1, [Gen. 3:16]
Respect him...Prov. 12:4, 1 Pet. 3:1-6, Eph. 5:33

C. Children:

Love them...Titus 2:4
Bring them up in the Lord...Eph. 6:4

D. Family members/siblings

Treat them as a brother/sister in Christ...1 Pet. 3:8-9
Help them...1 Tim. 5:4, 16

E. Family of Christ

Wash the saints' feet...1 Tim. 5:10
Sympathetic, brotherly (sisterly ☺), kindhearted, humble...1 Pet. 3:8-9

F. Friends

Choose them carefully...Prov. 20:19, Prov. 25:19, 1 Cor. 15:33
Evangelize them...2 Tim. 4:5, Rom. 10:14
Keep your behavior excellent...1 Pet. 2:12, Col. 4:5
Dating relationships...1 Tim. 5:1-2

G. Employer/Teacher

Be subject to your employer...Titus 2:9, 10,

*When you are married, you need to be subject to your husband over your employer. Your first loyalties are always to him!...Titus 2:5, Eph. 5:22-24, Col.3:18, 1 Pet. 3:1

Treat them with respect/honor...1 Tim. 6:1, 1 Pet. 2:18
even when they are unreasonable...1 Pet. 2:18-20
especially if they are believers...1 Tim. 6:2, Philemon 1:16
Serve with sincerity of heart, as to the Lord...Col.3:22-24, Eph. 6:5-8
Be faithful in all things...1 Tim. 3:11

H. Employee

Lead without threatening...Eph. 6:9

(Don't lord it over those who are under you, because there is no partiality with God.)

Lead with justice and fairness...Col. 4:1

Care for them and their needs...Prov. 31:15

Especially if they are believers...Philemon 1:16

Work heartily, as for the Lord...Prov. 31:13, 17, Col.3:23

Be faithful in all things...1 Tim. 3:11

I. Community

Outreach and ministry...Prov 31:20, 1 Tim. 5:10, 2 Tim. 2:4-5
Using your gifts to minister to others

II. Reputation

- A. A good reputation is important...Prov. 22:1
- B. A good reputation comes from what others see...1 Sam. 16:7
- C. You make your own reputation...Prov. 20:11
 - 1. Your appearance: Does your outward appearance truly represent you as a young woman after God's own heart?...1 Tim. 2:9-10, 1 Pet. 3:3-4
 - God asks us to cover our bodies for several different reasons:
 - a. We will compromise our own purity and self-respect by showing more of our body than we should.
 - b. We will convey the wrong message to the people around us, which may damage our reputation...Gen. 38:14
 - c. We are being disrespectful of our brothers and their attempts to lead a pure life before the Lord and therefore sinning against Christ...1 Cor. 8:12, 1 Thess. 4:4-6

God made men differently than he made us. They think very differently. Any woman's uncovered body is arousing to a man, whether he is especially interested in her or not. If a woman receives this kind of attention from a man, it is not flattering, nor does it mean he is interested in a romantic relationship with her, although he may be interested in a physical relationship if he is unsaved, or seriously backslidden. It does not even mean he thinks she's beautiful, simply that she is uncovered. This kind of attention is not respectful of women as people and would not be coveted, even in a fleshly way, if women understood it better.

We may want a certain man to think we are beautiful, but we also want to be respected by him as a whole person and treated with care and sacrificial love. This is not what comes of that kind of attention. We need to dress so that we are beautiful and godly. We are not available for anyone physically, until we are married, and godly men want to marry a godly woman. A godly man will have to struggle to avoid sinning just from looking at your uncovered body, instead of noticing how beautiful you are! And he may make the wrong assumption about what kind of a girl you are. Certainly, he knows you are not very respectful of his point of view, nor of Christ's request for modesty.

But maybe we are just trying to dress stylishly, or in the summer, trying to stay cool. Unfortunately, the result is the same no matter what our motives are. The Lord will bless us for obedience to Him, even if it means we have to make some sacrifices in the areas of style or comfort.

d. We will have the privilege of reserving our bodies for our husband's eyes alone, which will bless both him and you...Heb.13:4

2. Your actions:...Prov. 20:11

- a. Modest: A broader definition of modesty is not calling attention to ourselves. This applies to both what we wear and how we act. This doesn't mean we all have to have quiet, retiring personalities, but that we aren't calling attention to ourselves inappropriately by the things we say, the way we move, whom we touch, and where we go...Prov. 6: 23-25, Prov. 11:22
- b. Adorns herself with good works...1 Tim. 2:9-10
- c. Reverent in behavior Titus 2:3

3. Your attitude

- a. Fear the Lord...Prov. 31:30
- b. Dignified...1 Tim. 3:11
- c. Temperate, not enslaved to wine... 1 Tim. 3:11, Titus 2:3
- d. Faithful...1 Tim. 3:11
- e. Gentle and quiet spirit...1 Pet. 3:4
- f. Sensible...Titus 2:3
- g. Pure...Titus 2:3, Eph 5:3
- h. Kind...Titus 2:3
- i. Content whatever the circumstances...Phil. 4:11
- j. NOT idle, malicious gossips, busybodies...Prov. 17:9, 1 Tim.3:11, 1 Tim.5:13, Titus 2:3
- k. Free from the love of money...Heb. 13:5

III. Job or Vocation

- A. Helper Gen. 2:18
- B. Older women teach younger Titus 2:5
- C. Workers at home 1 Tim. 5:14, Titus 2:5
- D. Hospitable Titus 1:8, 1 Tim. 5:10
- E. Take care of dependent relatives 1 Tim. 5:4, 16
- F. Not idle 1 Tim. 5:13
- G. Bear and raise children 1 Tim. 5:10, 14
- H. Good works 1 Tim. 2:10, 5:10
- I. Wash the saints' feet 1 Tim. 5:10
- J. Assist those in distress 1 Tim. 5:10
- K. Outside job/career

The Bible doesn't talk a lot about this situation. There are a few verses about slaves/masters that can be applied to employee/employer relationships (see under Relationships). But most of the jobs listed specifically for women, can be done closer to home. This is what I gathered from Proverbs 31.

1. She shops for supplies to make clothing and food—sometimes far away (buyer).
2. She feeds and manages the household well, including servants (manager, chef)
3. She considers a field and buys it (real estate agent, developer, investor)
4. She plants a vineyard from her earnings (farmer, winemaker, grower, greenhouse owner)
5. She makes herself strong (aerobics instructor, sports coach)
6. She knows when she's doing well (business woman)
7. She spins yarn and makes fabric and then beautiful clothes for the household (designer, seamstress)
8. She helps the poor (relief worker)
9. She has beautiful clothes (clothing retailer)
10. She makes and sells fine clothes and belts (saleswoman, boutique owner)